

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 were examined in the Office Action mailed December 1, 2005. The Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 4-5. The foregoing amendments incorporate language from these claims into the remaining independent claims. In addition, the preambles of claims 1-3 and 6-9 have been revised to more clearly recite the intended claim scope, *i.e.*, claims 1-3 recite network systems incorporating the claimed guidance notification apparatus, and claims 6-9 recite a communications method for providing guidance information.

The Amended Claims Are Patentable Over Caccuro and Fung.

The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1-3 and 6-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,440,615 to Caccuro, *et al.* ("Caccuro"), and the rejection of claims 8-9 as anticipated under § 102(b) by U.S. Patent No. 6,069,939 to Fung, *et al.* ("Fung"), on the grounds that neither of these referenced discloses all the features of the present invention recited in amended claims 1-3 and 6-9.

The present invention improves user convenience by essentially eliminating the prior art's requirement for separate actions and/or data entry when placing a call in order to enable delivery of alternative language guidance messages, with the originating user's terminal having origination country code storage and transmission means integrated into the unit. With the claimed system and method, the operations required to support such functionality are transparent to the user placing the call, and are independent of whether a call is

being placed on the user's contracting network. This latter feature ensures the availability of the necessary origination information (and thus, *e.g.*, the user's language preference) regardless of whether the user is on his or her contracting network or is roaming in another part of the world.

In contrast to the invention recited in the amended claims, and as acknowledged in the Examiner's comments in the statement of reasons for allowance of claims 4-5, Caccuro discloses a voice messaging system in which origination location information is generated by *the originating communications network 103* (not obtained from the terminal unit as recited in the amended claims), and a voice messaging system at a called party's end uses this information to determine what language to use in responding to the incoming call. Caccuro at 2:52-3:26; Fig. 1. Fung similarly discloses a network-based guidance providing system, in which *the network* determines what is the destination country of the called party, and plays guidance notifications in the destination language. Fung at 4:21-6:23; Figs. 1-3 (destination identification and further processing performed at network component 70).

Because Caccuro and Fung do not disclose (or suggest) the features of the present invention now recited in claims 1-3 and 6-9, the amended claims are patentable over Caccuro and Fung under § 102(b). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the pending rejections is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-3 and 6-9 are now in condition for allowance, along with allowed claims 4-5. Early and favorable consideration, and issuance of a Notice of Allowance for claims 1-9, is respectfully requested.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #010755.53247US).

Respectfully submitted,

March 1, 2006



Robert L. Grabarek, Jr.
Registration No. 40,625
Mark H. Neblett
Registration No. 42,028

CROWELL & MORING LLP
Intellectual Property Group
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844
RLG:MHN:vgp